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HE-MAN AND THE MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE®

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ADAM! NO!

The SWORD and the SORCERESS II

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NO...

NYEE-HAA-

HAA-HA-

DO YOU SEE?! DO YOU SEE HER PAIN?! IS IT NOT DELICIOUS?! SHE BELIEVES HIM GONE! SHE THINKS HIM DEAD BY THE CAULDRON'S FLAMES!

FOOLISH GIRL! THE NIGHT IS YOUNG AND WE HAVE NOT BEGUN TO BE ENTERTAINED!

NEITHER OF YOU HAS SHED SO MUCH AS A SINGLE DROP OF BLOOD!

KNOW THEN THAT BLOOD FEEDS THE CAULDRON. THE MORE BLOOD SHED, THE MORE SUBSTANTIAL THE CAULDRON'S FLAMES BECOME.

THE LAST COMBATANTS FOUGHT THROUGH MULTIPLE FALLS TILL NEAR DAWN.

ADAM! THE FLAMES... THEY'RE ILLUSIONS?

I'M FINE, THANKS.

ADAM!

NO. THERE WAS HEAT THERE. VERY FAINT, BUT THERE.

AN ENCHANTMENT?

THAT'S MY GUESS. I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING THAT THE LONGER THIS FARCE GOES ON, THE HOTTER THOSE FLAMES WILL GET.

EVIL-LYN'S LOOKING TO SLOW-ROAST US.

GOOD.
GOOD?!
GOOD THAT YOU'RE NOT BUYING INTO HER "WINNER TAKES ALL" LIE.
THERE *ARE* NO WINNERS HERE.
!!
NGH!
ON WITH IT! ON WITH IT! I GROW BORED! YOU DO *NOT* WANT ME TO GROW BORED! IS THAT NOT SO, *EX* MAN-AT-ARMS?
TELL THEM! GO ON! *TELL* THEM!
HER MAJESTY IS *MOST* UNPLEASANT WHEN BORED.
WELL, *THAT* DIDN'T SOUND VERY CONVINCING AT *ALL!*
ANY CHANCE WE CAN BOTH JUMP DOWN AND--
BE BURNED TO CINDERS. ODDS ARE SHE CAN CONTROL THE FLAMES' INTENSITY.
THERE IS AN OPTION, BUT IT'S NOT AN ATTRACTIVE ONE.
GOT TO BE BETTER THAN ONE OF US DYING.
COULD INVOLVE *BOTH* OF US DYING.
OH, *DO* GO ON.
THAT BASIN--
CAULDRON.
--ISN'T SET FLUSH WITH THE CONE.

AWFULLY NARROW.

UH-HUH.

AWFULLY STUPID.

UH-HU... WHA--?

YOU'RE TALKING, AT BEST, A THREE-FOOT GAP. FROM UP HERE THAT TRANSLATES TO A SPLIT SKULL IF YOU GO HEAD FIRST, A FRACTURED LEG IF YOU GO FEET FIRST.

NOT TO MENTION SURVIVING THE PLUNGE DOWN THE CONE IF WE MANAGE TO SQUEAK THROUGH.

ZOAR KNOCKED ME DOWN THERE FOR A REASON.

ZOAR IS AN ILLUSION! IT SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO KNOCK... =SIGH=

YOU SEE? THIS IS WHY I HATE SORCERY.

ARE YOU COMING OR NOT?

I--

ROLL WHEN YOU HIT!

THUD

WHUD

I HATE Y--

-OOOOO

THEY DID *NOT!* THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES! THERE *ARE* NO PROVISIONS FOR ESCAPE!

WELL?! WHAT ARE YOU *STANDING* THERE FOR?! GET THEM! FETCH!

THE FALL, MAJESTY. I DOUBT THEY COULD SURVIVE THAT FALL INTO THE --

=SIGH= AS COMMANDED, MAJESTY.

AS IF YOU COULD HAVE KEPT ME FROM GOING AFTER HER.

I JUST WISH I KNEW *WHY* I FEEL THE NEED TO.

...SEVEN... EIGHT... NINE...

GIVING ME A TEN COUNT?

A HUNDRED. AT TEN I'LL STILL WANT TO KILL YOU.

DO ME A FAVOR, NEXT TIME YOU DECIDE TO TAKE A BLIND LEAP, YOU GO FIRST. I'LL BE MORE THAN HAPPY TO WAIT FOR THE "ALL CLEAR" *IF* YOU SURVIVE THE FALL.

FOR THE RECORD, YOU HAD NO IDEA ALL OF THIS WAS DOWN HERE, DID YOU?

NOPE. THE BEST I WAS HOPING FOR WAS AN OUTCROPPING OR TWO THAT WE COULD SNAG ON THE WAY DOWN.

NICE TO KNOW YOU THINK THINGS THROUGH.

YOU'RE WELCOME.

THAT WASN'T A COMPLIMENT.

WHERE DO YOU FIGURE THIS LEADS TO?

ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

I WAS AFRAID YOU'D SAY THAT.

CAN YOU READ ANY OF THIS?

NOT A WORD.

PROBABLY THE USUAL DIRE WARNINGS AND THE LIKE.

HOW "ENCOURAGING."

CASTLE GRAYSKULL.

YOU WHAT?

YOU HEARD ME THE FIRST TIME.

YOU WHAT?!

I SEEM TO HAVE MISPLACED YOUR TWO PERSONS OF INTEREST.

YOU'RE *NOT* GOING TO BLOW THIS UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION, ARE YOU?

EXACTLY *HOW* DOES ONE GO ABOUT MISPLACING--

THEY BROKE THE RULES OF THE CAULDRON. ESCAPE HAS *NEVER* BEEN AN OPTION.

MIGHT I ASSUME THAT THE GREAT AND MIGHTY EVIL-LYN WILL HAVE THE PRINCE AND HIS CONSORT BACK IN CUSTODY SOONER THAN LATER?

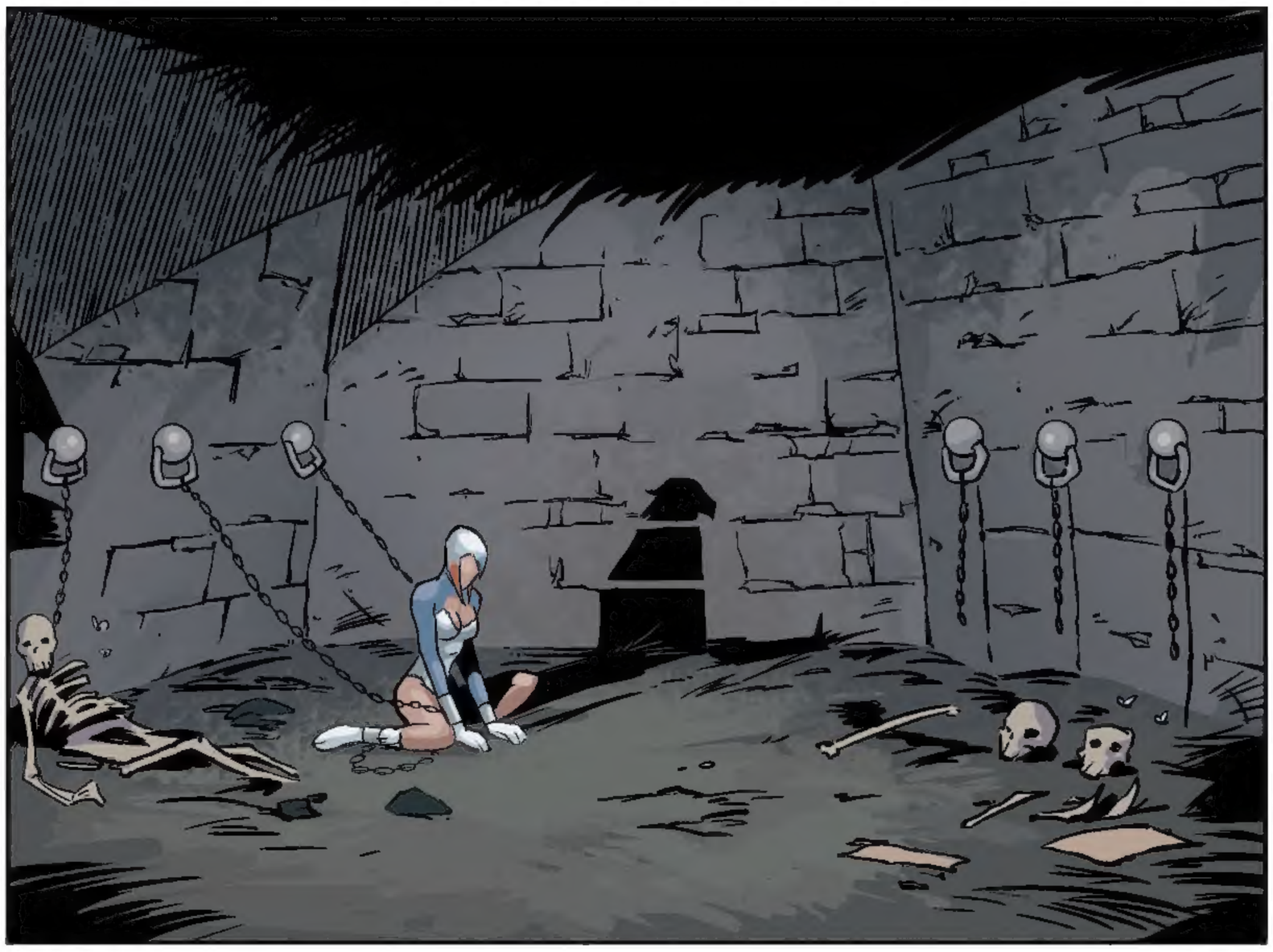
I'M NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT I CARE FOR YOUR TONE OF VOICE.

ANSWER. THE. QUESTION.

SOONER THAN LATER. YES, YES, FINE, FINE. THERE. ARE YOU SATISFIED NOW?

IT'S ALL THAT SILLY BIRD'S FAULT. HAD IT NOT KNOCKED THE PRINCE FROM THE BEAM--

BIRD?! *WHAT* BIRD?!



TH-BOOM

YOU DARE!

THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY YOU COULD HAVE KNOWN! MY MIND! HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN... WHERE?!
WHERE IN MY MIND HAVE YOU BEEN HIDING?!
TOOK YOU...LONG... ENOUGH...

NOW YOU FIND YOUR TONGUE, THE BETTER TO MOCK ME?
DID NOT... HIDE. PLAIN SIGHT...I WAS...THERE... IF YOU KNEW WHERE...TO LOOK...
WHERE?!

A PLEASANT... MEMORY. YOU SO...RARELY... REVISIT SUCH... MOMENTS.

SLAM

GUIDING THEM! GUIDING THEM FROM WITHIN *MY MIND!*

DID YOU THINK YOURSELF BEYOND THE REACH OF MY WRATH?! DID YOU THINK YOU WERE THE ONLY OPTION OPEN TO ME?!

YOU THOUGHT WRONG!

SNAKT

GRAYSKULL'S POWER WILL BE MINE! I WILL ACCEPT NO LESS! I WILL FIND THE KEY TO THAT POWER EVEN IF IT MEANS RAZING THE CASTLE TO THE GROUND!

I WILL *NOT* BE DENIED!

THIS IS INTERMINABLE.

SH-SH-SH! YOU HEAR THAT?

TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH. WHAT? DID YOU THINK THEY WOULDN'T SEND MEN AFTER US? THEY *HAD* TO KNOW THIS WAS DOWN HERE.

WHATEVER *THIS* IS. SOUNDS LIKE SHE SENT A SMALL ARMY AFTER US.

NUH-UH. HALF-A-DOZEN AT MOST. YOU'RE COUNTING THE ECHOES.

THAT'S HALF A DOZEN TOO MANY. BOTH OF US ARE INJURED.

SUCK IT UP, SOLDIER.

I'M NOT A...

GREAT. A DEAD END.

NOT REALLY. THERE'S A DOOR...OF SORTS.

MIGHT AS WELL BE A DEAD END. OUR CHANCES OF MOVING THAT ARE--

LET'S, AT LEAST, *TRY* BEFORE WE GIVE UP?

OH, NO THANK YOU. I DON'T NEED ANY HELP.

ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. I WAS JUST THINKING.

THINKING ABOUT HOW TO AVOID WORK?

UM... ADAM?

NOW THERE'S SOMETHING YOU DON'T SEE EVERY DAY.

WAS THERE HEAT?

WHERE I TOUCHED? NO.

WHY'D IT REACT TO YOUR TOUCH?

LET'S HOPE THIS IS MORE "HAPPY TO SEE YOU" THAN "DIE, TRESPASSER."

OKAY. I CAN GET BEHIND THAT.

ARE YOU *SEEING* THIS?

REMIND ME NEVER TO SHAKE HANDS WITH YOU.

ME?! YOU THINK THIS HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH *ME?!*

DIDN'T DO THIS WHEN I TOUCHED...

...IT... GRAYSKULL'S BANE, WHAT HAVE WE STUMBLED INTO?

THE ANSWER. THE ANSWER TO ALL OF OUR QUESTIONS.

NO...

YOU THINK?

...I KNOW.

PLEASE, TELL ME YOU'RE HUNGRY AND THAT WAS YOUR STOMACH.

KRRAH

HUH? WHAT?

!!

MOWRRGHH

ADAM!

C'MON, C'MON, C'MON... A TORCH, A PIECE OF FALLEN STONE... ANYTHING I CAN USE AS A...

...WEAPON!

CHUD

OKAY, I HURT IT. THAT'S A GOOD THING.

AAAAAND I GOT IT MAD. THAT'S A BAD THING.

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THE BAD THINGS ARE GOING TO OUTWEIGH THE GOOD?

STOP NARRATING! SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR--

RAAR

@#$&%#!!

WELL PUT.

YOU KISS YOUR FATHER WITH THAT MOUTH?

I'LL LET THAT ONE SLIDE.

SEEING HOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE EATEN BY A CAT 'N'...

...ALL?!

STEADY, GIRL, LET'S NOT MAKE THIS MORE DIFFICULT THAN--

GET YOUR HANDS *OFF* OF ME!

SHE BE A SQUIRMER! LOOK'A HER GO! MAYBE LET ME HOL' HER? MAYBE YES?

ENOUGH OF THAT! WE'RE NOT HERE TO...

GRAYSKULL'S BANE! WHAT IN CREATION IS *THAT?!*

WHY ARE YOU JUST *STANDING* HERE?! YOU'VE GOT WEAPONS! HELP HIM!

I THINK NOT.

HE'S AS GOOD AS DEAD. EVIL-LYN WILL JUST HAVE TO SETTLE FOR YOU.

NO! YOU SON OF A-- IT'S JUST A BIG CAT!

I WAS ORDERED TO RETRIEVE YOU OR WHAT WAS LEFT OF YOU.

WE'LL COME BACK LATER FOR HIS BONES.

NO! ADAM! ADAMMMM...

YES, YES. PICKED CLEAN THEY WILL BE. PER'APS WE MAKE A CHAIR OUT OF THEM, EH?

N-NICE KITTY?

RRRHH

DIDN'T THINK S-SO.

YOU REALLY... GONNA DO THIS? HNN...HN...LIKE YOU HAVE A CHOICE...

DAMMIT ALL! I WASN'T BROUGHT H-HERE TO DIE!

PLEASE, LET THAT B-BE TRUE!

RARGH

STUPID W-W-WAY TO DIE...

KRAKOOM

BY THE POWER OF GRAYSKULL...

I HAVE THE POWER!

NO! NO-NO-NO-NO! HE WASN'T INVITED! HOW DARE HE...

SEA FATHER SAVE US. HE HAS TRIUMPHED.

MAKE HASTE. WE WOULD DO WELL TO BE FAR REMOVED FROM HIS WRATH.

TEELA? WHAT...?

ADAM...

M-MAJESTY?

LATER. I THINK WE'VE GOT A FIGHT ON OUR HANDS... DAD.

...

COME TO ME, THEN, AND BRING YOUR FOOLS WITH YOU. LAST TIME I TOOK YOUR MEMORIES, *THIS* TIME...

...I WILL TAKE YOUR *LIVES*.

Next Issue:

HE-MAN

WHAT MORE NEEDS TO BE SAID?